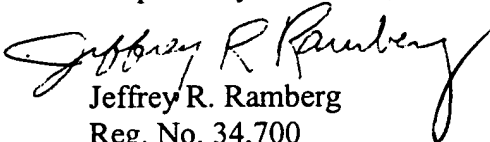


Applicants respectfully submit that the present application meets the requirements for patentability. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request a favorable first action on the merits. Specifically, applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 1-5, and 7-46.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of applicants would be desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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